



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Statement on Release of Final Mississippi River Refuge CCP

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), Co-chair of both the Upper Mississippi River Congressional Task Force and the newly formed Congressional National Wildlife Refuge Caucus, released the following statement on the release of the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge:

“As someone who grew up near the Refuge, I understand how important a healthy multi-use river system is, not only to our region’s economy but also to our quality of life. Due to the immense size and scope of the Refuge, I have consistently underscored the importance of public participation in the development of a plan that the Refuge’s many constituencies can support.

“On this point, I believe the Fish and Wildlife Service should be commended. In developing the CCP, the agency has taken great strides to involve the public through an inclusive and open process. I also believe the FWS recognizes the great challenge of managing a large, multi-use resource such as the River and has put forward a plan that strikes a good balance between the needs of the various users as well as the wildlife it aims to protect.

“At the end of day, the key to the success of any final CCP is broad community support that builds upon the vital public-private partnerships that have worked to maintain the Refuge in the past. That is one of the reasons why I have advocated for voluntary compliance, a solution which recognizes the great challenge of managing the Refuge with the limited resources available for enforcement.

“In addition to preserving these vital public-private partnerships, it is critical that the FWS continue its efforts to build support for the final plan, to work with the appropriate Wisconsin agencies in developing Refuge regulations, and finally, to ensure the final plan coordinates with state law. Additionally, it is incumbent upon Congress to enact complimentary public policies that further address the challenges facing the River, including measures I have introduced to combat invasive species and reduce nutrient run-off and sedimentation.”